

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheet includes changes to Fig. 5A and replaces the original drawing sheet containing Figs. 4 and 5A.

The changes to this figure are further discussed in the Remarks beginning on page 6 of this paper.

No changes have been made to Fig. 4.

Attachments: Replacement drawing sheet including Figs. 4 and 5A

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The rejections presented in the Office Action dated 20 March 2007 (hereinafter Office Action) have been considered. Reconsideration of the pending claims and allowance of the application in view of the present response is respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended Fig. 5A to correct a typographical error by changing reference numeral “240” to “239”. The change is consistent with the reference numerals used in Fig. 4 to identify sections of the sensor array and with the discussion in paragraph [0038] of the Specification.

Without acquiescing to characterizations of the asserted art, Applicant’s claimed subject matter, or to the applications of the asserted art or combinations thereof to Applicant’s claimed subject matter, Applicant has amended the independent claims to characterize that the claimed multiple imaging apparatus each includes a respective lens. Support for these changes may be found in the Specification, for example, in Figs. 2B and 4; and in the corresponding discussions in paragraphs [0019] and [0034]; therefore, the changes do not introduce new matter. Each of the claims is believed to be patentable over the asserted references for the reasons presented below.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 1-3 and 8-10 based upon the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 5,760,832 to Yamanaka *et al.* (hereinafter “Yamanaka”), Applicant submits that Yamanaka does not teach an imaging device having at least two image capturing apparatus where each apparatus includes a respective lens. In contrast, Yamanaka teaches a device having a single lens 4 (Abstract and column 5, line 66). Each of the image pickup elements 17-19 (asserted as corresponding to the claimed at least two image capturing apparatus) receives the image formed by the lens 4 (Fig. 4 and column 6, lines 21-29). Thus, each of Yamanaka’s image pickup elements 17-19 share the same lens 4 and do not each include a respective lens, as claimed. As Yamanaka does not teach each of the claimed limitations as required to maintain a §102(b) rejection, Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 4-7 and 11 based upon the teachings of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0020845 by Ogura *et al.* (hereinafter “Ogura”), Applicant submits that Ogura does not teach a lenslet array having at least three apparatus where each apparatus

includes a single lens and the at least third apparatus has an image sensor larger, or an image sensor having a larger number of pixels, or an image sensor having larger resolution, than the image sensors of the first and second apparatus. Ogura teaches that each color picture cell array 2-5 (asserted as corresponding to the claimed at least three image capturing apparatus) has a corresponding lens 6-9. *See, e.g.*, Fig. 1. In asserting correspondence to the claimed third apparatus, the Examiner relies upon the combination of color picture cell arrays 3 and 4. However, the picture cell arrays 3 and 4 receive images from lenses 7 and 8, respectively, such that the combined picture cell arrays 3 and 4 include both lenses 7 and 8. Thus, the asserted third apparatus (the combination of picture cell arrays 3 and 4) does not include a single lens. Further, there is no indication in Ogura that picture cell array 3 or 4, not in combination with the other, would be larger, have a larger number of pixels, or a larger resolution, than picture cell arrays 1 and 2. As Ogura does not teach each of the claimed limitations as required to maintain a §102(b) rejection, Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

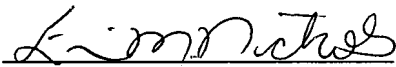
While Applicant does not acquiesce with the particular rejections to the dependent claims, these rejections are also improper for the reasons discussed above in connection with independent Claims 1, 4, 6, and 8. The dependent claims include all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims and recite additional features which further distinguish them from the respectively cited references. Therefore, the rejections of dependent Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 10 should also be withdrawn.

Authorization is given to charge Deposit Account No. 50-3581 (NKO.021.A1) any necessary fees for this filing. If the Examiner believes it necessary or helpful, the undersigned attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss any issues related to this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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